

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Daniel P. Becker, et al.  
Serial No: TBA  
Filed: September 5, 2003  
For: Aromatic Sulfone Hydroxamic Acids and Their Use as Protease Inhibitors  
Group Art Unit: TBA  
Examiner: TBA  
Attorney Ref: 3316/0A/US  
HDP Ref: 6794-000005/DVC  
Divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/142,737 (filed May 10, 2002;  
group art unit 1625, Examiner Zinna Northington Davis)

September 5, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,  
SIR/MADAM:

The above-referenced patent application enclosed herewith is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/142,737 (filed May 10, 2002). Applicants request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered into the above-referenced divisional application.

**Amendments to the specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 17.

**Remarks** begin on page 47.